

John 21v15-17 – How Do I Love You – 05-21-1972

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Ralph C. Link, Pastor
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.
Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP May 14, 1972

The Organ Prelude
*The Hymn of Praise 12
*The Call to Worship

*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)
Out of the depths we cry to thee, O Lord!
Lord, hear our voice! Let thy ears be attentive to our confessions and supplications!
If thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities who could stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared. We wait for the Lord, our souls wait, and in his word we hope. O people, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plenteous redemption. And he will redeem us from all our iniquities. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who came into the world to save sinners. Amen.

*The Kyrie
*The Assurance of Pardon
The Scripture---I John 1:1-5 Mark 5:35-43
*The Gloria Patri
The Anthem (Trinity)
The Pastoral Prayer
The Announcements
The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings
*The Doxology
*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer
The Reception of a New Member
The Sacrament of Baptism
The Hymn of Meditation 182
The Sermon----"And She Laughed"
The Sermon Prayer
*The Hymn of Response 382
*The Benediction

TRINITY HYMN BOOKS & DECORATION
FOWA DIRECTOR

*The Threefold Amen
*The Postlude

*Congregation Stands

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Visitor's Day at Hoffman Home is Sat. May 20th.

TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flowers on the altar are placed in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Charles K. Hampton by Inez Harms.

Consistory meeting Tues. May 16th at 7:30 PM.
~~WE WILL EVALUATE GUEST SERVICES~~
Family covered dish dinner Sunday May 21st at 6:00 PM. Please bring own table service.
WELCOME VISITORS

CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flowers on the chancel are in memory of Mrs. Nora Fox by Mr. & Mrs. Richard Fox.

Win-A-Chum Class will have the worship service at Kinkora Home today at 2:00 PM.

~~WE WELCOME AS NEW MEMBER MR. DONNA
BAPTISM
HOFFMAN HOME OWNER & CRAIG MARSHAL~~

PENN CENTRAL NEWS

~~NEXT SUNDAY 10 WM BAPTISM~~

MEETING WED. 1774 AT 7:00

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THE ORDER OF WORSHIP May 21, 1972

The Organ Prelude
*The Hymn of Praise 381
*The Call to Worship
*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)
O God our Father, thou who hast called us
to be a light to the nations, how we have
failed thee! We have taken thy light and
put in under the bushel basket of our selfish-
ness. We have failed to see that thou hast
chosen us not because we deserve it, but be-
cause thou hast a mission for us in the
world. Forgive us, O God, and grant us grace
to be witnesses to thy Son Jesus Christ;
through whom we pray. Amen.
*The Kyrie
*The Assurance of Pardon
The Scripture----Matthew 25:31-45
*The Gloria Patri
The Anthem (Trinity)
The Pastoral Prayer
The Announcements
The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings
*The Doxology
*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer
The Hymn of Meditation 380
The Sermon----"How Do I Love You?"
The Sermon Prayer
*The Hymn of Response 393
*The Benediction
*The Threefold Amen
*The Postlude

*Congregation Stands

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Delegates are still needed from each church
for the annual conference at Annville. If
you are interested please contact the pastor
for details. *REGISTRATION DEADLINE MAY 26TH*
THE RALLY ON JUNE 11TH ANNVILLE

TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Family covered dish dinner tonight at 6:00
PM. Please bring own table service.

The Lutheran Church Women invite you to an
evening of May fellowship in the Parish
House Thursday May 25th at 7:30 PM. Mr.
David McAlicher will show slides of the
Holy Land.

CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are happy to report the formation of a
new class for post high young people. If
you know of anyone who may be interested,
please contact them or give their name to
Jeff Smith.

*No CONFIRMATION
NEXT SUNDAY*

"How Do I Love You?"

JH

Text: John 21: 15-17

Our nation has a penchant for abbreviating words. This idea probably started back in the depression era. Perhaps it was a means to save newsprint, since money was scarce and everyone was saying what could be said. But do you remember the WPA? Then we had FDR, ~~WWII~~ and TVA. During the war we had the OPA, and LST'S, LCI's, POWSs. Companies became TWA, IBM and that one that has been in the news ITT.

The fad has become so popular that many of the people who are in the news are only known by initials. We had JFK, LBJ, RFK, and would probably have RIN, if it ~~WERE MORE~~ poetic, ~~WERE MORE~~.

Even the churches and church groups have gotten into the swing of this fad. We have the NCC, WCC, Umc and of course our own UCC. Then within the confines of each major group are intermediary groups that are known by initials. Chief among these is the OCWM.

This stands for Our Christian World Mission. This is the branch of the church that takes care of the needs of institutions and people around the world.

During the past few years the basic giving in the churches throughout our nation has declined to an alarming extent. This is ~~the reason for~~ ~~reduced~~, using today the birthday of the Christian church as the day in which to emphasize the OCWM.

The reason given for the loss of funds is because the ~~other~~ ~~individual~~ individual conferences throughout the country have received less than the amount they are pledged to give to the national office, and so they must cut back on what they can give. Thus the budget of the national office and the budget of the conference office must be cut back.

Now there are many experts in any given field, and the experts in the church are citing many reasons for the lack of funds. But basically they are citing the wrong reasons for the decline. They will tell you it is increased taxes and that could be a part of it. Or they will tell you that it is less take home pay due to inflation, and that may also be a part of it. But the real reason is not being told, and that is the plain and simple fact that some of the average church goers have decided they are going to hit the church where it hurts in retaliation for some of the things the church has been doing with, quote, "my money."

I can accept this thinking, and I can sympathize with their feelings. But I cannot feel that it is completely justified. Sure, if we shut off their supply of money we can fix them so they do not spend it foolishly, but who is it that really gets hurt? It is that missionary out in the remote regions, who has asked for just a few more bibles to help spread the word. Instead of the bibles he gets a letter from the New York office, "Sorry, your bibles will not be sent until we receive sufficient funds." Or a fellow going to Seminary receives a letter from the Denomination, "Sorry, your grant toward your tuition will not be forthcoming this year due to lack of funds." Or people throughout the world who would have received food and blankets and medical help will not get it. Who are we hurting?

Elizabeth Browning wrote, "How do I love You? Let me count the ways." Jesus was having breakfast with his disciples one day, and when they had finished he said to Peter, Simon son of John do you love me more than these?" And Peter answered, "Yes Lord; you know I love you." Jesus said to him, "/Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, 2 "Tend my sheep." Jesus said to him yet a third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" And Peter was grieved that the Lord said to him a third time, "Do you love me?"

And he answered, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you."

Q And Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

Reginald Helferich, the retired Executive Vice President of the United Church Board for World Ministries tells some wonderful stories of how the OCWM has helped millions of people who have needed help and of the many millions who still need it.

WW II

~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ at the close of the ~~war~~
He said that when he first got the job ~~he went overseas~~ to see just where the money was going and to see if he could find cheaper and easier ways to help people. On the first leg of his journey he went to Greece or around that area.

He said that when word got around who he was people came up to him and talked to him in their native tongue, but he could not understand a word they said, but he could tell by the way they shook their heads and smiled, ~~but~~ they were thanking him for help. One woman came up to

Q him and in broken English began to tell him how much she and the women of that village appreciated the baby layettes and diapers that were sent from different women's groups, ~~throughout the~~ of different congregations of the UCC. She showed him a diaper that was sent ~~and~~ as she held it up, she asked why the wonderful woman who sent it, took the time to embroider a beautiful red rose, on the section of the diaper that would cover the baby's bottom. He said he had to laugh, but the woman cried, and she said to thank the women of America for them, because they only had rags for their babies until the layettes and diapers arrived.

At a little town in the Near East he was stopped by a very old woman, and she asked him, "Did we die?" At first he did not understand, and then she explained "that for the first time in about 5 years ~~they had enough food and milk and warm clothing, and surely this~~ must be heaven and they were no longer on the earth."

In Germany he said he visited all kinds of institutions for orphans and broken families. ~~xxxxxx~~ Throughout all of the country

could be seen the devastation and ravages of war. The country was not only a shambles, but the people were ill fed, ill clothed, and defeated in more ways than one.

At the several orphanages he visited, the children were taken care of, but there were only a handful of people to ~~the~~ care ~~for~~ their needs. One orphanage in particular, was composed of all boys.

The building was an old schoolhouse, and ~~xxxxx~~ each of the rooms on the ^{2nd} floor were converted into bedrooms. Each boy had his own crate ^{IN} ~~that~~ ~~which he slept~~ ~~he slept in~~. The wooden crates that had held rations and ammunition for the American forces, were converted to beds for the boys. Some rags or paper were used to fill the box with a makeshift mattress, and over this was placed a blanket with a small pillow and a bit of blanket to cover with.

When he visited it was right after lunch and the boys were in their rooms taking their afternoon nap. He was escorted through the building by one of the women in charge and the inspection trip was one of speed and very little looking. He said it was almost as if they wanted to get him out of there as quickly as possible. He said when they peeked in the door of the one bedroom, the boys were all in their crates for their nap, and one little fellow near the door had the eye that could be seen closed but he noticed the other little eye next to the pillow, very quickly blinked shut when he looked at him.

When they left the room and went down the hall to look at the other bedrooms and each was the same, all of the boys were in their crate beds. When they reached the end of the hall to go back downstairs, he told the woman he just wanted to rest for a while and ~~think~~ she should ^{go on ahead} ~~go on ahead~~ go on ahead, while he caught his breath. After she had disappeared down the stairs and was safely out of sight, he went back down the hall and ^{Wife} ~~opened~~ the ^{To} ~~door~~ of the room where he had seen the little boy ~~he~~ was peeking, and opening the door, he stuck his head in and asked, "Wie gates

bubba?", whereupon the room came alive with little boys jumping out of their makeshift beds and crowding around him. He had some candy bars, they eagerly grabbed and ate and they talked to him ~~all the same time~~. But one little boy, the one who had been nearest the door, and had been peeking, hung to his leg and would not let go. Finally, he got the boy to let go and when he did the little fellow held out his arms and asked to be held in German. He picked the ~~xx~~ small boy up and he threw his ^{LITTLE} arms around his neck and would not let go. He squeezed with all his might.
~~ALL HE WANTED WAS SOME LOVE.~~

Mr. Helferich said he could still feel those arms around his neck and it was over 25 years ago this happened.

The nurse who had conducted him on the tour, came looking for him when he did not come downstairs and she was quite upset because he had disturbed the boys. But he got her settled down, and after a while he got the boys settled again and was able to leave.

Through trial and error the church learned how to send things more economically. For instance when they first started sending heifers overseas, it cost so much to send each one. So they thought of different ways of sending them to see which would be cheaper. Finally they decided that sending them by the boatload ~~fix~~ was the cheapest, but before any of them were shipped they were bred, so that shortly after their arrival at the designated country there were two instead of one, and they were both shipped for the same price.

They formerly sent chicks by plane. But they soon discovered ~~that~~ they could send at least two eggs for the same price as one chick and the egg did not die enroute as many of the chicks did. Then upon arrival the eggs were kept under ideal conditions as they had been ^{everywhere} ~~guaranteed~~ all along the way and soon there were healthy chicks in more quantity than was possible shipping them ~~out of the US~~ ^{AS CHICKS OR}.

Each of the commodities being sent was checked and new and cheaper ways were found to send most of them and most of these developments

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife
Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link
Ethan and Alica in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)









Ralph C. Link
153 Keck Road
Sarver, Pa. 16055
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Married: December 15, 1951

Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill

Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

SCHOOLING:

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

PASTORATES:

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United
Church of Christ

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Diety of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.